



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2006-03-0098

April 13, 2007

MISUSE OF STATE POSTAGE

Inspector General David O. Thomas and Staff Attorney Amanda Schaeffer, after an investigation by Special Agent Dave Clark, report as follows:

This investigation involved a Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) employee who works in the mailroom and mailed personal items using state postage.

The investigation revealed that the respondent worked in the FSSA mailroom as a supervisor. Using the FSSA postage machine for personal mail postage is not permitted. Another employee reported that he had observed the mail trays with pieces of the respondent's personal outgoing mail. The employee stated that the automatic postage meter had been used to put postage on this personal mail as corroborated by the postage machine that shows how many pieces of mail have been run through it.


In an interview with Office of Inspector General (OIG) Special Agent Dave Clark, the respondent stated that sometimes he would bring personal addressed envelopes with him to work. He initially stated that someone must have come into his cubicle on the days he had these envelopes with him, ran his envelopes through the postage machine and mailed his items for him.

The OIG has jurisdiction to file ethics complaint with the State Ethics Commission. I.C. 4-2-7-5(b)(1).

The Indiana Code of Ethics in 42 IAC 1-5-12 (use of state property rule) states that an employee shall not make use of state materials, funds, property, personnel, facilities or equipment for any purpose other than for official state business unless the use is expressly permitted by a general written agency, departmental or institutional policy, or regulation.

An ethics complaint was filed against the respondent alleging that he used the state machine for his own personal use as opposed to official state business use. On November 22, 2006, the respondent signed an agreed settlement admitting to the facts alleged in the complaint, and this agreed settlement was filed and approved by the State Ethics Commission on December 14, 2006.

Dated this 13th day of April, 2007.



David O. Thomas, Inspector General